

From: jerry richard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 11:17am
Subject: USAGRichard_Gerald_1022_0115

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

I am writing to address the antitrust settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. Bringing the antitrust proceedings to an immediate close will benefit the economy, particularly important now during the recent economic downturn. To that end, I am in favor of the current antitrust settlement with Microsoft.

Under the terms of the current settlement, Microsoft will design all future versions of its Windows operating system to be much more compliant with competitors' peripheral software components. This will allow consumers to have greater freedom in choosing and customize components within Windows. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose various internal interfaces of Windows to its competitors for the purpose of more compatible software development.

I have been a long time user of Microsoft's Windows products and I have never encountered any serious problems with them, certainly nothing that would warrant the economic disruption, which the antitrust proceedings have contributed to. In short, I urge you to support the antitrust settlement for the sake of getting our economy back on track. We need our heavy hitters in the IT sector now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Gerald Richard

CC: Representative David E. Bonior

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